

Naval Dental Hygienist

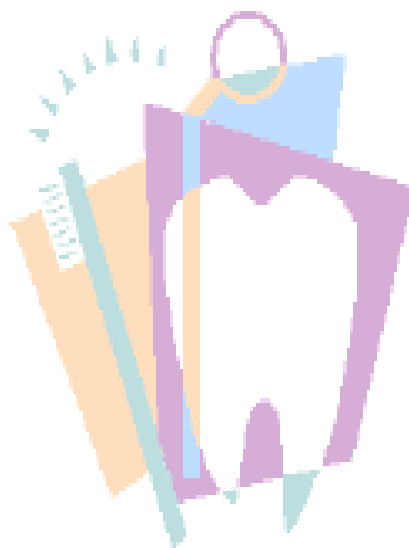
DT-8708

News Briefs

Dental Hygiene Statistics

- ✓ There more than 100,000 dental hygienists registered in the United States
- ✓ 98.3% of the nation's dental hygienists are female
- ✓ 53.9% are between the ages of 35 and 54
- ✓ 46.2% have earned an associate's degree or higher 34.4% have a bachelor's, master's, or higher degree
- ✓ There are over 200 nationally accredited dental hygiene programs in the United States.
- ✓ The RDH designation assures patients that the dental hygienist has completed a nationally accredited dental hygiene program and is a licensed oral health care provider.
- ✓ Between 1992 and 2005, the number of new jobs for dental hygienists is projected at 40,000--a 41% growth rate

Navy Dental Hygienists



Opportunities

The Dental Hygiene program is a unique opportunity for Navy enlisted Dental Technicians and Hospital Corpsmen to attend a civilian community college for 2 years. Graduates of the Dental Hygiene program will be certified as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH); a highly marketable skill in the civilian work force. The Navy will pay for each student's tuition, books, required clothing, lab fees, Comprehensive National Exams and other required costs associated with the Dental Hygiene program. Navy students will continue to receive their normal pay and allowances including all benefits of an active duty member. Students remain eligible to participate in Navy wide rating

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Nature of the Work

Population growth and greater retention of natural teeth will stimulate demand for dental hygienists

Dental hygienists clean teeth and provide other preventive dental care, as well as teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene. Hygienists examine patients' teeth and gums, recording the presence of diseases or abnormalities. They remove calculus, stains, and plaque from teeth; take and develop dental x rays; and apply cavity preventive agents such as fluorides and pit and fissure sealants. In some States, hygienists administer local anesthetics and anesthetic gas; place and carve filling materials, temporary fillings, and periodontal dressings; remove sutures; and smooth and polish metal restorations.

Dental hygienists also help patients develop and maintain good oral health. For example, they may explain the relationship between diet and oral health, inform patients how to select toothbrushes, and show patients how to brush and floss their teeth.

Dental hygienists use hand and rotary instruments, lasers, and ultrasonics to clean teeth; x-ray machines to take dental pictures; syringes with needles to administer local anesthetics; and models of teeth to explain oral hygiene.



Navy Educational Prerequisites

Most dental hygiene programs offer an associate degree. The American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation assures the minimal standards by accrediting quality programs. Generally an associate's degree takes two years to complete; however, most dental hygiene programs require prerequisite courses be taken before entry into dental hygiene, so in reality it may take longer than two years. Every school is a little different, so check out the schools in which you are most interested.

Each school also differs in specific course requirements, but generally the basic courses include college level English, chemistry, and specific biology courses.

Navy prerequisites:

High school graduate or GED equivalent.

High school Algebra I or equivalent with grade of 'C' or higher.

High school Chemistry or equivalent with a grade 'C' or higher **within the last 5 yrs.**

College level Anatomy and Physiology with a grade of 'C' or higher.

ASSET exam with placement scores of 86 (combined reading and writing) and 42 (numerical skills).

No evaluation mark below 3.0 over past two years.

Complete at least two years on current station (18 months for first term enlistees), no waivers greater than 2 months for DoD tours.

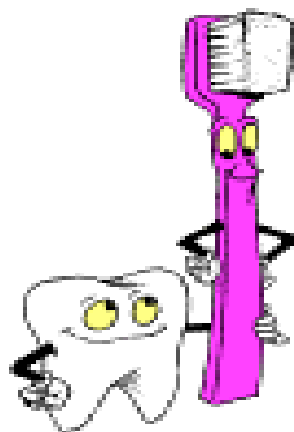
Must be physically qualified for transfer per MANMED and ENLTRANSMAN.

E3 to E5, or E6 with less than 12 years

Job Outlook

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2008, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater substitution of hygienists for services previously performed by dentists. Job prospects are expected to remain very good unless the number of dental hygienist program graduates grows much faster than during the last decade, and results in a much larger pool of qualified applicants.

Population growth and greater retention of natural teeth will stimulate demand for dental hygienists. Older dentists, who are less likely to employ dental hygienists, will leave and be replaced by recent graduates, who are more likely to do so. In addition, as dentists' workloads increase, they are expected to hire more hygienists to perform preventive dental care such as cleaning, so they may devote their own time to more profitable procedures.



EMPLOYMENT

Dental hygienists held about 143,000 jobs in 1998. Because multiple job holding is common in this field, the number of jobs exceeds the number of hygienists. About 3 out of 5 dental hygienists worked part time—less than 35 hours a week.

Almost all dental hygienists work in private dental offices. Some work in public health agencies, hospitals, and clinics.

CANTRAC Excerpt

TITLE: DENTAL HYGIENIST

STATUS: A

STATUS DATE: 8/4/1995 **DATA CURRENT AS OF:**

3/30/2001 **COURSE LENGTH:** 730 **COURSE SECURITY:**

NO CLEARANCE REQUIRED

TYPE COURSE: C5 ENLISTED MEDICAL NEC

SKILL AWARD: NEC 8708 Dental Hygienist **EFF DATE:**

26-MAR-1997 x

TRANSMAN. Applicant must be fully qualified to perform all duties required of the NEC worldwide: wherever a billet or a mobilization requirement exists. An applicant for this program is acknowledging that, upon graduation, he/she will be available for a utilization tour assignment to any one of these billets worldwide. **OBLIGATED SERVICE:** Selected students must obligate 48 months.

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examinations for advancement

in their current rating.

Selected Dental Technicians and Hospital Corpsman attend an American Dental Association (ADA) accredited Dental Hygiene program at either Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, NC, Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, FL, or Community College of Rhode Island in Providence, RI. Upon graduation Registered Dental Hygienist may be assigned to several platforms including overseas Dental Centers, Fleet Marine Force, and Ships

INFORMATION

If you would like additional information about the Dental Hygienist program contact the following:

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